



November 10, 2003

Dear interested party,

On behalf of the many foresters, biologists, scientists, economists and others at the state Department of Natural Resources who have worked on this project, I am pleased to offer the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for sustainable stewardship of state forest lands in Western Washington.

This (DEIS) is the product of more than two years of work and is the most comprehensive examination of state forest stewardship in Western Washington ever completed. As part of that examination DNR took several important steps.

First, we began with a comprehensive inventory of Washington's state forests. Data was collected not only on forest age, but also on habitat conditions and dozens of other factors critical to understanding forest growth and ecosystem health. Critical to this were the efforts of the independent technical advisory committee, who helped guide that spatial modeling process and provided important and independent scientific and technical advice.

We also made use of the most recent technology to model forest stewardship. Using that new inventory data, we simulated forest growth and management 200 years into the future, examining the impact of various strategies across landscapes.

Finally, early results from the model were verified by DNR foresters in the field to help ensure the accuracy of the projections.

During the next few months, the Board of Natural Resources will begin discussions on the six alternatives in an effort to find the responsible balance of economic benefit, environmental protection and social benefits, and to select a preferred alternative. Public participation is an important part of that examination and we invite anyone who is interested to join us at one of the six public meetings scheduled as part of this effort. A schedule of these meetings is on the "fact sheet" page of this document. Comments also may be made in writing through December 19, 2003.

I want to thank DNR foresters, scientists, economists and others who have put so many hours into this effort. Thanks also to the independent scientists from universities, industry and other agencies that helped ensure the quality of the science you see here. Finally, I want to thank the members of the public who have provided input throughout this process so far.

By balancing revenue for schools and other beneficiaries, healthy ecosystems, and benefits for all the people of Washington, our state can continue to be a leader in sustainable forestry practices.

Doug Sutherland

Commissioner of Public Lands
Chair, Board of Natural Resources

Fact Sheet

Title: Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Alternatives for Sustainable Forest Management of State Trust Lands in Western Washington.

Description: The proposal is the adoption of new policies and procedures resulting in a sustainable harvest level for forested trust lands managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources in western Washington.

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Tentative Implementation Date: July 2004

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Comment Period: Comments must be received by December 19, 2003. Comments may be submitted electronically on the DNR website at www.dnr.wa.gov, sent as e-mail attachments to the SEPA Center, sepacenter@wadnr.gov, or mailed to:

SEPA Center
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 47015
Olympia, WA 98504-7015

Public Meetings/Hearings:

Lacey	December 2, 2003
Port Angeles	December 3, 2003
Mount Vernon	December 4, 2003
Vancouver	December 9, 2003
Aberdeen	December 10, 2003
Des Moines	December 11, 2003

Date of Next Action and Subsequent Environmental Reviews:

Selection of Preferred Alternative by Board of Natural Resources – February 2004
FEIS Tentative Release Date – May 2004

Location of Supporting Documents:

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available on the Internet at <http://www.dnr.wa.gov>. Select the “Sustainable Harvest for State Trust Forestlands” link. Copies of the DEIS are available to read at public libraries throughout the state of Washington. Requests for mailed printed copies and CDs containing the document should be directed to:

Washington State Department of Natural Resources
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The 1992 Forest Resource Plan, 1997 Habitat Conservation Plan, DNR Procedures, and Washington Forest Practices Rules, upon which the Sustainable Harvest Calculation Alternatives are based, are available for review at each of the five westside DNR Region offices in Washington, and at the SEPA Center, Department of Natural Resources, 1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia, Washington.

Cost/Availability:

Copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement are available for downloading at no charge from the Internet address listed above. A limited number of print copies and computer CDs will also be available at no charge. After these are distributed, additional copies will be available for the cost of printing or CD production, per RCW 42.17. Requests can be sent to the above address.

Distribution List

This draft environmental impact statement is published on the DNR Internet website at <http://www.dnr.wa.gov>. In addition, copies have been distributed to:

Washington State Board of Natural Resources

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Terry Bergeson, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction

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Western Washington Tribal/Board Chairs for: Chehalis Confederated Tribes, Chinook Indian Tribe, Columbia River Intertribal Fisheries Commission, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Duwamish Tribe, Hoh Indian Tribe, Jamestown S’Kallam Indian Tribe, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, Muckleshoot Tribe, Nisqually Tribe, Nooksack Tribe, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Point No Point Treaty Council, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Quileute Tribe, Quinault Nation, Samish Indian Nation, Shoalwater Bay Tribe, Skagit System Cooperative, Skokomish Tribe, Snohomish Tribe, Snoqualmie Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, Steilacoom Indian Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe, Sauk-Suiattle Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, Swinomish Tribe, Tulalip Tribes, Umatilla Confederated Tribes, Upper Columbia United Tribes, Upper Skagit Tribe, Yakama Nation

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Counties

Western Washington County Commissioners/Executives for: Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum and Whatcom Counties

General Public

All other individuals and groups on the Board of Natural Resources and Sustainable Harvest Calculation mail lists will receive official SEPA notification of the document’s availability. The full document is available on the DNR website: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov>

N A T U R A L

R E S O U R C E S

DRAFT

ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT
STATEMENT

on

**ALTERNATIVES
FOR SUSTAINABLE
FOREST
MANAGEMENT OF
STATE TRUST
LANDS IN
WESTERN
WASHINGTON**

**And for Determining the
Sustainable Harvest Level**

November 2003

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